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College Comment

Key to Current Issues in Alberta Public Colleges

DISSOLVING THE ALBERTA COLLEGES COMMISSION

Pursuant to a Government decision announced in the summer of 1972, the Alberta Colleges Commission is to be dissolved as of March 31, 1973. Its authority and responsibilities will be assigned to the **Department of Advanced Education.** The change is based on the desire of Government to improved coordination in post-secondary education by eliminating intermediary authorities including both the Colleges and Universities Commissions.

The Colleges Commission was established July 1, 1969, the date of proclamation of Part I of **The Colleges Act.** Founding membership included Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Mr. W. A. Bowes, Mr. R. M. Jewell, Mr. J. J. Comessotti, Mr. J. D. Mitchell, Dr. T. C. Byrne, Dr E. E. Ballantyne and Mr. F. G. Stewart. Throughout the lifetime of the Commission, the Chairman has been Dr. H. Kolesar.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The major responsibilities assumed by the Commission included representation of system interests to others, as well as planning, coordination and regulation of system operation. The representation function was aimed primarily toward Government, other educational sectors and the general public. Planning, coordination and regulatory activities were directed toward system rationalization and growth. From the outset, the Commission encouraged the broadening of college services toward the achievement in each operating centre of the community college concept. Toward this end, the Commission has approved the introduction of more than 45 programs. The full-time equivalent enrolments in day programs grew from 3,200 in 1969 to more than 6,600 in 1972. Participation in continuing education and community service programs offered by the colleges increased from an estimated 2,000 to more than 10,000 persons in this same period. Service to students sponsored by the Federal and the Provincial Governments has shown similar proportional increases. This growth was accommodated in the five colleges; **Medicine Hat College, Lethbridge Community College, Red Deer College, Grande Prairie Regional College, and Mount Royal College, Calgary**; and in **Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton.** The latter was established with the approval of the Commission in late 1970 and provided its first classes in 1971. To accommodate the increases in enrolment campus additions were approved and completed in Lethbridge and Red Deer. New campuses were built and occupied in Medicine Hat in 1971 and at Mount Royal College, Calgary in 1972. The Commission also approved the rental and purchase of facilities for Grant MacEwan Community College, Edmonton. In September, 1972, approval was given the Board of Grande Prairie Regional College to build a new campus. Grants obtained from Government by the Commission for the support of college operation increased from $4 million in 1969 to more than $11.5 million in 1972-73. 1969 was the last year that colleges received some support from taxes levied on property in supporting school districts.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Along with the expansion in services, enrolments, facilities and support, the Commission has observed a significant improvement in the attitudes of the people in Alberta toward the opportunities provided in colleges. Similarly, those associated with and working in colleges exhibit a substantially higher level of confidence in college and in system identity, as well as vitality and optimism for the future, than was the case with fledgling operations in 1969.

DUE CREDIT

Credits for the growth and improvements which have occurred in colleges and in the college system is claimed in part by **Dr. H. Kolesar, Chairman of the Commission** on behalf of the Commission. However, as Dr. Kolesar puts it, the majority of this credit is attributable to others, among them the various individuals, groups and authorities through the Province who have supported the college movement. Also to be credited are those directly associated with the operation of the colleges. While a complete listing of persons and groups will not be attempted, Dr. Kolesar has expressed special thanks to two Education Ministers, Mr. R. C. Clark and Mr. J. L. Foster. It was these gentlemen through whom the Commission communicated with Government. To those persons in the colleges, Dr. Kolesar has also extended on behalf of the Commission and its staff, words of appreciation for their efforts toward the achievement of both institutional and system objectives.

(continued next page)

Finally, on behalf of the Commission and its staff, Dr. Kolesar extends to all those working in colleges continuing success in the future.

It is expected that the Commission will publish an Annual Report covering its objective and activities during 1972-73. *The report will likely present a more detailed review of college system growth during the period 1969 to 1973.*

HISTORY OF THE ALBERTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

The Alberta Colleges Commission has agreed to support the publication of a book describing the history of the Alberta Community College System. The author is Dr. Gordon Campbell, Associate Professor of Education at the University of Lethbridge. In his book, Dr. Campbell intends to cover the period which saw the establishment of Lethbridge Junior College in 1957 up to time of the dissolution of the Alberta Colleges Commission which is expected on March 31, 1973. The book will also highlight the creation of the Board of Post-Secondary Education in 1967, and the passage of **The Colleges Act** in 1969 which included the creation of the Alberta Colleges Commission.

Dr. Campbell has had a keen interest in the community college system generally. He also authored the book "Community Colleges in Canada". His new book will be bound in a hard cover and published by McClelland and Stewart.

NEW CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Work is underway on phase one of the Grande Prairie Regional College campus. The project, costing almost $5 million suffered numerous delays before the actual construction work began. It is hoped that the new facility will be ready for occupancy by the Fall of 1974.

A 62 year history of service for Mount Royal College was capped in November, with the official opening of the $15.1 million Lincoln Park Campus in southwest Calgary. The new facility was officially opened by Premier Peter Lougheed. Emphasizing the college's community orientation, an official open house brought hundreds of visitors through the new campus.

LOGO ADOPTED

The Lethbridge Community College has adopted a new logo. The college "crest" will still be used on official documents, but the logo will identify the college on some stationary and most College equipment. College President Dr. C. D. Stewart described the logo as depicting the College symbol in a contemporary design. It typifies the southern Alberta region where the College is located—mountains and prairie. Two colors are incorporated; the green of the countryside and the blue of the skies over the area.

NEW PRESIDENT AT RED DEER COLLEGE

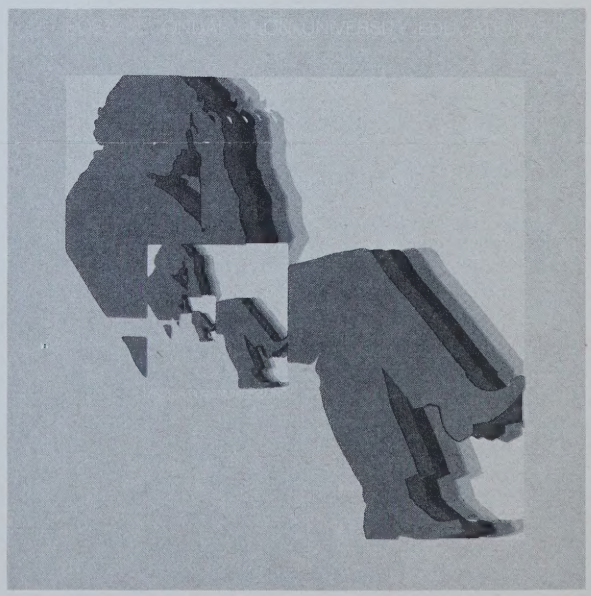
Red Deer College will have a new president by the end of March. Applications for the position closed January 29 and by mid-February the choice of candidates was narrowed to nine. Earlier, the criteria for the selection was worked out by the **Interim College Council** consisting of students, faculty and members of the community. The final selection committee consisted of two faculty members, two students, two community members, the Bursar of the College, and College Administrator, Dr. R. G. Fast. The appointment of Dr. Fast was made last June. It followed the Byrne Inquiry into affairs at the college which led to the dissolving of the Board of Governors and the resignations of former president Dr. Merv Eastman and former vice-president Dr. Ronald Piters.

1973-74 TUITION FEES

In the 1972-73 academic year, the tuition fee level at all public colleges in Alberta will be $200.00, the exception being Lethbridge Community College. The decision by the **Alberta Colleges Commission** to place all tuition fees at the same level, in effect, reduces the tuition fees for students attending Mount Royal College, Calgary, from $250.00 per year to $200.00. Beginning with the 1972-73 academic year, fees charged by Mount Royal were reduced from $300.00 to $250.00 in an attempt by the Commission to bring all tuition fees into line. In the case of Lethbridge Community College, the fees will remain at $80.00 for those students enrolled in the College's Technical-Vocational Program. Fees for all other programs at the southern college will be within the range of $150.00 to $200.00.

MASTER PLAN SPECIAL MEETINGS

A visit to Grande Prairie Regional College on March 8 and Red Deer College on March 9 will conclude the series of special meetings conducted by the Alberta Colleges Commission The purpose of the meetings is to hear submissions regarding **Master Plan Number One.**



The Commission began the series with a special meeting at Medicine Hat College on January 11 and Lethbridge Community College on January 12. Meetings followed at Grant

MacEwan Community College, Edmonton, on February 8 and Mount Royal College, Calgary on February 9. During the first four meetings in the series, more than 30 formal submissions had been made on behalf of interested persons. All briefs presented at these special meetings will be summarized before being forwarded to the Minister of Advanced Education.

The author of Master Plan Number One, **Mr. R. A. Bosetti,** says that he is pleased with the response that the report has been getting. Nevertheless, he has expressed some caution at the way in which the report is being interpreted. As he puts it, "it is only a reaction document designed to generate further discussion concerning the future of post-secondary non-university education in the province."

PROGRAMS INTRODUCED

In 1972 there were eleven new programs introduced at three of the colleges after being approved by the Alberta Colleges Commission. The majority of the programs were introduced at Grant MacEwan Community College, which began its operation the previous year. The following is a list of the new programs being offered at the colleges and the time of their introduction:

January	
Instructional Assistant	Grant MacEwan
Law Clerk	Grant MacEwan
July	
Industrial Education (certificate)	Grande Prairie
September	
Arts and Science (diploma)	Medicine Hat
Urban Studies	Grant MacEwan
Music (diploma)	Grant MacEwan
Design Arts (diploma)	Grant MacEwan
Canadian Studies (diploma)	Grant MacEwan
Adolescent Development	Grant MacEwan
Horsemanship	Grant MacEwan

In addition, the Colleges Commission approved the introduction at Lethbridge Community College of the first year of the two-year Agricultural Mechanics Program offered by Olds College.

Feature College:

Grant MacEwan Community College

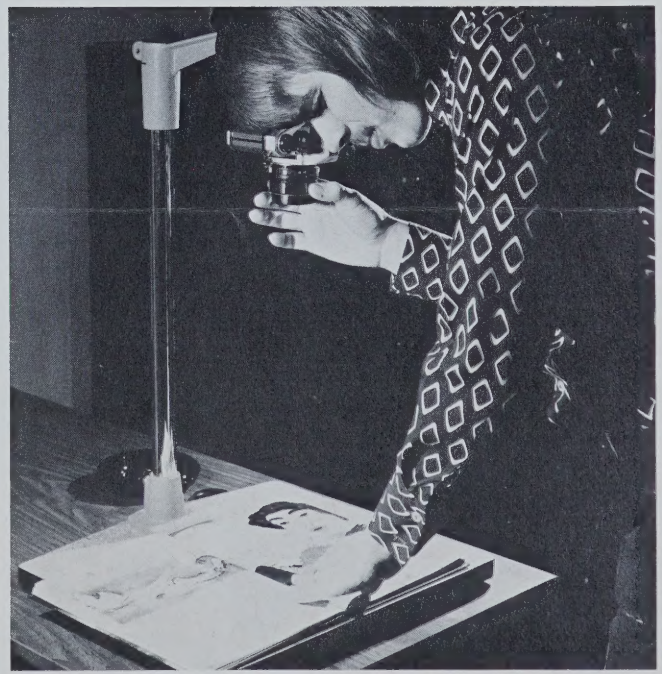
One of the philosophical goals of Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton is to keep education in society, not isolated from it. To this end, and in addition to having three campuses in different areas of the city, courses are conducted in surrounding communities as far away as the **Assumption Reserve,** 40 miles from **Rainbow Lake** in Northern Alberta.

The College opened in September, 1971 and now serves over 1,800 students on a full and part time basis and through Continuing Education credit and special interest courses. They range in age from seventeen to sixty, with close to 55% of them coming from places in Alberta other than Edmonton.

Twenty inmates from the **Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institute** began attending classes in January as part of an experimental pilot project. The project was arranged through the cooperation of the College and the **Attorney-General's Department.** Thus far the project is extremely successful, so much so, a second group of twenty are expected to enrol for the Spring-Summer Trimester in May. Grant MacEwan Community College has also opened its doors to hundreds of Edmontonians to hear lectures and readings by prominent Canadian politicians, doctors, businessmen, poets and authors.

Students enroled in most of the thirty full-time day programs receive the benefit of field experience and orientation through the cooperation of several agencies and businesses. The result is that classrooms are many and varied. Here are some examples: Horsemanship in nearby stables; Early Childhood Development in their own day care centre at the **Assumption Campus;** Urban Studies in a rented store on 111 Avenue; Library Technicians at the University of Alberta; Law Clerks in lawyers offices and Fashion Sales trainees in numerous retail outlets.

Social Service Workers assist junior high school students in a special project at two elementary schools; Audio Visual Technicians prepare slide presentations and visual media for use within the system; Journalism students report for the Edmonton Journal as well as radio stations and their own publications; Advertising and Public Relations students assist in the promotion of such events as the CanAm Races, and Nurses train at the Edmonton General Hospital.



Grant MacEwan Community College began operations on September 7, 1971. It is named after His Honour J. W. Grant MacEwan, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta.

EUROPEAN TOUR

How do different cultures accommodate to organizational problems in education? The approaches adopted by five European countries has been identified in a study prepared by Dr. Henry Kolesar, Chairman of the Alberta Colleges Commission. **"Structure for Governance in Education in Five European Countries"** comes as the result of Dr. Kolesar's participation in a Junior College Study Tour in June and July 1971. The five countries visited and identified in the Study are England, France, Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands.

By placing his analysis within the context of demography and general government in each of the five countries, Dr. Kolesar effectively supports his contention that "How education is governed is determined by how government deals with others of its interest, not the reverse". The study should provide useful insights to policymakers, planners, and organization analysts who are concerned with meeting legitimate demands for coordination and efficiency in education and, at the same time, with maintaining a dynamic structure for governance which accommodates to the educational needs of society.

Persons interested in receiving copies of **"Structure for Governance in Education in Five European Countries"** are asked to contact the Commission office.

RESEARCH STUDIES

Research Study No. 19: **R. M. Olson, College Research and Alberta's Public Community Colleges, 1972.**

The purpose of Mr. Olson's study is to describe the research component in Alberta's community colleges. In doing so, he has focused attention on the question of what should be the nature and extent of the research activities carried out in institutions which are primarily concerned with teaching. Though the author's findings may not be generalized in all respects across the Alberta College System his documentation of research inadequacies perceived by administrators and instructors alike should be of interest to all who are actively involved in the maintenance and development of an effective system of college education.

Research Study No. 20: **J. C. Long, An Historical Study of the Establishment of College Systems in Ontario and Alberta in the 1960's.**

In his thesis, Mr. Long has chosen to trace the development of college systems in Ontario and Alberta during the decade of the 1960's. The developments of the two systems have been placed within the context of certain social changes that occurred in the larger national society. This approach has added a new perspective to the examination of college education in these two provinces.

The above studies are being made available in the same manner as the other Commission-supported studies in the series. Requests for copies can be made through the offices of the Alberta Colleges Commission in Edmonton.

COLLEGE COMMENT is a quarterly publication of the Alberta Colleges Commission for administrators, faculty and students in Alberta's public colleges. Subscriptions may be obtained free by contacting Mr. Glen E. Yost, Information Officer, Alberta Colleges Commission, 600, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L1. Telephone 482-5976

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